

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 (Canceled)

Claim 13 (New) An item of footwear comprising in combination:

- an outsole consisting in a monolithic piece of synthetic material and having in its forepart at least a vent opening which is made through the thickness of said outsole,
- a grating-like element which is set into said vent opening and acts as a screen by separating and protecting the inside of the footwear from the ground which comes into contact with said outsole,
- a pliable sheet insert made from a breathable and water-repellent leather material which is embedded into the outsole and is positioned inside the outsole so as to overlie said vent opening,
- an insole made of a breathable and water-repellent leather, leatherboard or fibreboard material, and
- an upper made of a breathable and water-repellent leather material or a combination thereof with synthetic materials such as foam polymers and nylon or polyester mesh bonded together in a laminated form.

Claim 14 (New) An item of footwear according to claim 13, wherein said grating-like element is formed of juxtaposed straight or curved, parallel or latticed bar elements which are integral with the outsole and are produced together therewith.

Claim 15 (New) An item of footwear according to claim 13, wherein said grating-like element is formed of juxtaposed straight or curved, parallel or latticed bar elements which are integral with an insert intended to be inserted into said vent opening in the outsole and fixed therein.

Claim 16 (New) An item of footwear according to claim 13, wherein said insole is provided with through holes located in the forepart thereof which aid to moisture breathability of the insole.

Claim 17 (New) An item of footwear according to claim 13, wherein said insole is covered by an insock.

Claim 18 (New) An item of footwear according to claim 17, wherein said insock is formed of layers of different materials joined together by a stitching seam.

Claim 19 (New) An item of footwear according to claim 18, wherein said insock comprises at least a top layer made of leather and a bottom layer made of ethylene vinyl acetate.

Claim 20 (New) An item of footwear according to claim 18, wherein the insock is provided with a heel cushioning pad located in its back part.

Claim 21 (New) An item of footwear according to claim 18, wherein said insock is provided with through holes located in its forepart which aid to moisture breathability of the insock.